Follycon

The 2018 British National Science Fiction Convention

Read Me

	Registration	Info Desk
Friday	9am-7pm	10am-7:30pm
Saturday	9am-2pm	10am-6:30pm
Sunday	9am-noon	10am-6:30pm
Monday	9am-noon	10am-3:30pm

(When closed, go to Ops for assistance: see page 3.)

	Dealers' Room	Art Show
Friday	3pm-6pm	3pm-9pm
Saturday	10am-6pm	10am-7pm
Sunday	10am-6pm	10am-4pm
Monday	10am-3pm	

Convention Food (see pages 6 and 7 for details)

Hotel breakfast	7am-11am	Ballroom
Breakfast sandwiches	7am-noon	N/S Lounge
Lunch/snacks	noon-10pm	Ballroom
Dinner	5pm-8pm	Ballroom
Late night sarnies	10pm-midnight	N/S Lounge

Message from the Chair

Welcome to Follycon! We've really enjoyed putting together this convention for you and we hope there will be loads of interesting things for you to enjoy this weekend. Thanks to our wonderful guests, **Kieron Gillen**, **Christina Lake**, **Nnedi Okorafor** and **Kim Stanley Robinson**.

If you haven't done so already, please read through this guide, especially the Code of Conduct (it's really quite short).

If you're new to Eastercons, we've got a couple of specific items for you: look for details in the Pocket Programme.

We want everyone to have a great time at Follycon. While you're having fun, remember to eat, drink, sleep and shower regularly, and do try not to break anything.

See you in the bar!

—Alison Scott

Welcome to The Majestic Hotel

We're very pleased to be spending the weekend at this lovely hotel. We hope that you don't have any problems while you're here, but if you do then please ask for help (see page 3).

The hotel's check-out time is 12:30pm. The hotel can store residents' luggage: please ask at hotel reception.

If you would like to put up posters, please only attach them to doors, mirrors or glass (not to the walls) and use white tack or equivalent.

Parking in the hotel car park is free for all Follycon members.

Convention members are welcome to use the hotel's swimming pool. Children are only allowed in the pool from 8am to 9am, noon to 1pm and 5pm to 6pm. Please note that non-convention members may also be using the pool.

The Majestic Hotel is a lovely Victorian building, and as such does not always meet modern access standards. If you encounter any problems during the convention that you think we can mitigate, please speak to Ops.

Please be aware that the carpet on the upper stairs may cause problems to people with visual issues, who might prefer to use the lifts. However, the lifts are quite small and so we ask that people who can use the stairs do so where possible.

We have set up yellow taped boxes on the floor in areas that are likely to suffer from the worst congestion. Please do not stand or sit in these areas, and keep them as clear as possible.

Follycon has a Quiet Room in Room 133. It will be open at all times. Please be respectful and accommodating to other users of the room, who may be there for different reasons to your own.

Questions and Problems

If you have any questions, problems or concerns during Follycon, your first port of call should be the Info Desk, opposite Registration. When the desk is closed, you can go to the Operations Room, known as Ops. It's located in Room 233, and staffed from 9am to 10pm. If the Info Desk or Ops can't answer your question immediately, they'll do their best to find a solution as soon as possible.

Ops should also be your first port of call for lost or found items.

At all times, a member of the Follycon committee will be acting as the Duty Committee Member (DCM). This person will be wearing a turquoise sash, and you can also speak to them if you have any problems or concerns.

If the matter you'd like to discuss is serious or confidential, please ask to speak to the DCM or Ops Manager in private.

At any time, you can also telephone 07514 867770 to report an incident of harassment or other behaviour that breaches the convention's Code of Conduct.

In general, if there is a problem then we ask that you tell us in person, rather than just trying to let us know on social media. The convention staff will be very busy this weekend, and a face-to-face report will be acted upon much more quickly.

One great way to let us know about non-urgent problems is by coming along to the Feedback Sessions each morning (see Pocket Programme for details). There, you can let the committees of both Follycon and next year's Eastercon have your thoughts.

Vote Early, Vote Often

When you registered for the convention, you should have received an envelope containing Hall Costume Tokens and ballot forms for the Doc Weir Award and the BSFA Awards.

The **Doc Weir Award** celebrates the unsung heroes in fandom, and you can learn more about it in the Souvenir Book. Please vote for your chosen candidate by filling in the form and putting it in the box at Info Desk by 10:30am on

Monday. The winner will be announced in the Closing Ceremony, whether willing or not.

The **BSFA Awards** are voted on by members of the British Science Fiction Association and the Eastercon. You can read more about them in the Souvenir Book, and vote by filling in the form and leaving it in the box on the BSFA Dealers' Room table by noon on Saturday. The winners will be announced on Saturday at 7pm in the BSFA Awards Ceremony.

On Sunday, Follycon will be celebrating all things Lewis Carroll and costume-related, as described on page 11. We encourage you to give your **Hall Costume Tokens** to the people with the costumes that you admire the most.

Costumers who receive tokens should take them to Info Desk by 10:30am on Monday and follow the instructions there. The costumer with the most tokens will be suitably rewarded during the Closing Ceremony.

Additionally, the current **Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund** and **Going Under Fan Fund** races, which send fans between Europe and North America / the Antipodes, will close shortly after the end of Follycon. You can cast your vote at the Info Desk or online.

Keeping in Touch

Follycon's convention newsletter is being produced by some of the team behind the Satellite conventions, plus volunteers who didn't run away fast enough when asked to help. You can contact them at *newsletter@follycon.org.uk* to pass along snippets of news, information and spurious gossip, or you can leave a message in the box on the Info Desk.

We also have a social media team, who'll be using *facebook.com/follycon2018* and @follycon2018 on Twitter. They'll also be keeping an eye on #follycon and #eastercon. If something's wrong with the con, please try to tell us in person rather than relying on social media.

How to Volunteer

Follycon is entirely run by volunteers, all of whom have paid for their memberships, and if you've already offered to help, then thank you! If you haven't already volunteered, it's not too late to come along to Room 232 and offer to help out.

If you volunteer, you get groats (reward tokens) to say thank you. Each is worth £2 when used in the convention and hotel bars, on convention food or in the Dealers' Room.

We also have a fabulous reward T-shirt, designed by Rachel Cummins-Olsen. It's available to those who volunteer for twelve or more hours for the convention, and you can find out more about how to get one in Room 232.

Food and Drink

All convention meals will be served in the Ballroom, other than late-night and breakfast sandwiches, which will be available in the North/South Lounge.

Members who are resident in the hotel will receive breakfast tokens at check-in. These are valid for either the hotel breakfast or, until later, a breakfast sandwich and tea or coffee.

Non-resident members can pay £10 for the hotel breakfast or buy breakfast sandwiches for £3 plus £1 per additional filling.

There is a 24-hour £1 tuck shop, selling crisps, chocolate and soft drinks, located in North/South Lounge. Cold sandwiches are also available 24-hours in the North/South Lounge.

From 10pm to midnight, bacon and chip sandwiches will be available in the North/South Lounge.

We have made arrangements with the hotel that there will always be vegetarian and vegan meals available, as well as options that are dairy- and gluten-free. The hotel will make provision for other dietary requirements on request.

The convention bar is in the North/South Lounge. As well as offering a full bar service, it also sells a selection of real ale, cider and perry. The main hotel Regency bar will also be open. Both will be open until 2am, depending on demand, but can be used as lounge areas after closing.

Access to Carriages

The Art Show and the Dealers' Room are in the lower level of the hotel, and the step-free access route involves going outside on a slope. We have arranged for a golf cart for people who find the walk difficult: please see the map for details.

Dealers' Room

We have a lot of dealers with a large range of items on sale, including tea, soaps, jewellery, crafts and even books, from well-known publishers and independent authors. We also have fan tables, publicising upcoming conventions and events.

Please don't bring food or drink into the Dealers' Room.

Many of the dealers will accept Follycon groats as payment.

Art Show

We have a packed Art Show this year, with over 30 artists exhibiting original art works, prints, jewellery, art in 3D, mugs, cards and more.

Please don't bring food or drink into the Art Show, and please don't take photos or recordings in the room.

Art Show Reception

The Art Show will have its official launch party on Friday from 7pm to 9pm. Come along to meet the artists and see the art!

Purchasing Art

You can buy some items immediately from the **Art Show Shop**, which will be stocking multiples of prints, cards, mugs, jewellery and more. Please ask if you need help with this.

Otherwise, unless an item is marked *NFS* (not for sale) it is for sale. Some items are available for *Instant Sale*, but the rest are available for purchase through our **silent auction**. Speak to one of the Art Show staff, or check the signs, for details of how to bid and how to buy Instant Sale items.

Bidding will close at **4pm on Sunday**. A list of successful auction winners, and the number of items they have won, will be published outside the main entrance to the Carriages Suite by 6pm on Sunday.

Winners should come to the Dance Studio from 6pm on Sunday to collect and pay for art. We accept cash (GBP), sterling cheques and debit or credit cards, and you will receive a receipt for your purchase.

Programme Information

You can find detailed information about Follycon's programme by looking in the Pocket Programme booklet, or online (see Pocket Programme for details).

Programme participants are asked to gather in the Green Room (opposite Registration) 15 minutes before their event is due to start. Between the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Green Room will be open from 9:30am to 9:30pm; outside these times, please visit later to collect your free drink.

Some spaces in programme rooms will be reserved for people with access requirements: please respect this.

Step-free access to the Lounge and Billiards is via a covered outside pathway. Please look for the signs directing you along this route or check the map.

Billiards Room is being used for some relaxed Social Programming items, but it's also an overflow bar space.

If programme rooms become overcrowded, you may be told that you cannot enter. Please respect these instructions, as they are to ensure your safety.

Filk (music made by and for science fiction fans) will be happening in the Reading Room from 11pm on Friday (after Jon Boden) and from 10pm on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Come along to join in or just to listen!

Room 333 is the **Games Room**, where you can find a range of scheduled gaming items. Whether there's something listed in the Pocket Programme or not, please feel free to come along and join in a game or two.

Programme Highlights

On Friday at 8:45pm, we're delighted to be presenting a concert from **Jon Boden**. Formerly the front man of folk 'big band' Bellowhead, and winner of more BBC Folk Awards than any other artist, Jon's solo work envisions a post-apocalyptic England where the oil has run out and the cities are decaying.

On Saturday at 11:30am, Geoff Ryman will perform ***Gilgamesh Reads Gilgamesh***, a one-man play in which Gilgamesh looks back on his journeys, which Geoff has adapted for the convention using a translation by Andrew George.

At 1:30pm on Saturday, Tade Thompson will interview **Nnedi Okorafor** about her fiction, her academic work, and her world.

The **BSFA Lecture,** *Science Versus Witchdoctors in Post-War Kenya: Separating Myth From Reality*, will be given on Saturday at 3pm by Dr Sabine Clarke from the University of York.

On Saturday, we'll also be joined by **Keith Donnelly**, the very, very funny, globe-trotting, tall-tale-telling singer-songwriter-guitarist. Keith will be doing two shows for us: a family-focused show at 3pm appropriate for ages 2-99, and a second show at 8:15pm that is suitable for ages 3-102.

At 4:30pm on Saturday, **Kim Stanley Robinson** will hold a Q&A session where he chats and fields audience questions.

As described in more detail in the Souvenir Book, this is the BSFA's 60th year. The **BSFA Award Ceremony** will be held at 7pm on Saturday, and will be specially extended to celebrate the anniversary. You can vote in the awards by visiting the BSFA Dealers' Room table before noon on Saturday.

The **Hugo Award shortlists** will be announced on Saturday at 8pm, and there will be a discussion of their contents at 9pm.

Each year, different groups of volunteers bid to run future Eastercons. You can find out more by going to the **Eastercon Bidding Session** on Sunday at 10am.

From 10am on Sunday, there will be an **Easter Egg hunt**, for (plastic) eggs that have been hidden around the hotel and grounds. Please go to Info Desk to find out more, including how they can be magically turned into chocolate.

On Sunday at noon, **Christina Lake** will talk about her life and experiences in fandom.

This year's **Hay Lecture**, sponsored by the Science Fiction Foundation, will be given on Sunday at 1:30pm by Dr Kevin Cowtan from the University of York, and is entitled *Vulcans are from Vulcan, Humans are from Earth: Understanding Climate Science and Why Some People Reject It*.

On Sunday at 3pm, **Kieron Gillen** will talk to Roz Kaveney about his graphic novels, journalism and interests.

Join us from 4:30pm on Sunday at the **Mad Hatter's Tea Party**, for cream tea (sign up before 11am on Saturday at the Info Desk), entertainment, hall costumes and the parade of fabulous hats. If your hat isn't fabulous enough already, sign up for the Hat Trimming Workshop on Friday at 4pm.

On Sunday at 9pm, we'll be dancing with the **Science Ceilidh**, bringing people together through science and music and featuring a Follycon-themed dance created on Saturday at 11am and rehearsed on Sunday at 1:30pm.

Code of Conduct

Follycon aims to be a safe place for the enjoyment of all of our members. Different people will have a different view on what being a safe place means. To be clear, please be aware of this code of conduct when interacting with others at the convention.

Our Code

Please be considerate of everyone attending or helping at the convention, including committee, staff, volunteers and guests, as well as hotel staff and anyone else on site. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. In particular, we will not tolerate discrimination, harassment or abuse, including online publication or other display, for any reason including but not restricted to grounds of sex, gender identity, sexuality, age, ethnicity, religion or beliefs, mental or physical disability, or appearance. If someone tells you “No”, or asks you to leave them alone, please respect their wishes. All of the convention online activity is moderated and this code also applies there.

Reporting an Incident

There will be designated staff to deal with complaints. Please contact them as soon as you can if a situation arises. The complaint will be heard, in confidence, in a private place, and an appropriate response agreed upon with the complainant. A dedicated phone number is available to contact designated staff members: 07514 867770. See pages 3 and 4 (“Questions and Problems”) for more details of how to report an incident.

If you report a serious criminal matter, please be aware that we may be obliged to contact the police. We would, however, take into account any concerns you may have around involving them. We will consult you before any action is taken.

You can also report incidents to Ops, who will contact the appropriate member of staff for you.

Convention Responsibility

As a committee, we reserve the right to take such actions as we feel appropriate where any individual or group is found to have breached this Code of Conduct. These actions may include but are not limited to:

- talking with all parties involved and attempting to mediate a solution
- issuing verbal warnings
- revoking memberships and requiring that the person(s) leave the event
- involving hotel or facility staff, security or police

Although we consider our members and attendees to be sensible and responsible people, we recognise that issues related to this Code may still arise. We will deal with any issues as promptly, efficiently, and fairly as possible, maintaining confidentiality at all times.

The standard of judgement in these matters is the "reasonable person" standard as applied by the designated committee members. Attempts to "rules lawyer" the Code of Conduct will be seen as a sign of bad faith.

Convention Policies

As well as the Code of Conduct, Follycon has specific policies covering some activities. Please read through them and be aware that persistent breaches of the policies may result in your being asked to leave the convention.

Badges

Membership badges must be worn and prominently visible at all times. If you lose your badge, please go to Ops to check lost property and, if necessary, ask for a replacement. There may be a charge for replacement badges.

Mobile Phones

Please be considerate and switch mobiles either off or to silent mode during programme items. When using your phone outside programme items, please be aware of where you are standing and avoid blocking corridors.

Weapons Policy

No actual weapon, or any item that can be mistaken for one, may be carried either openly or concealed at any time on properties being used for Follycon. The only exceptions to this rule is where a weapon is part of a costume, in which case the weapon must be taken to Ops in advance to be approved and “peace bonded” unless it is very obviously a toy

Any item that is used in a threatening or harmful manner may be confiscated and the carrier may be asked to leave the convention.

Photography and Recording

In general, photography and audio/visual recordings for personal, non-commercial use are permitted in most areas of the convention. Photography and recording are not permitted in the Art Show.

We ask that you take photographs and recordings in a considerate manner.

If anyone is wearing a “no photography” badge or asks not to be photographed or recorded, this request must be respected. You can get these badges from Info Desk.

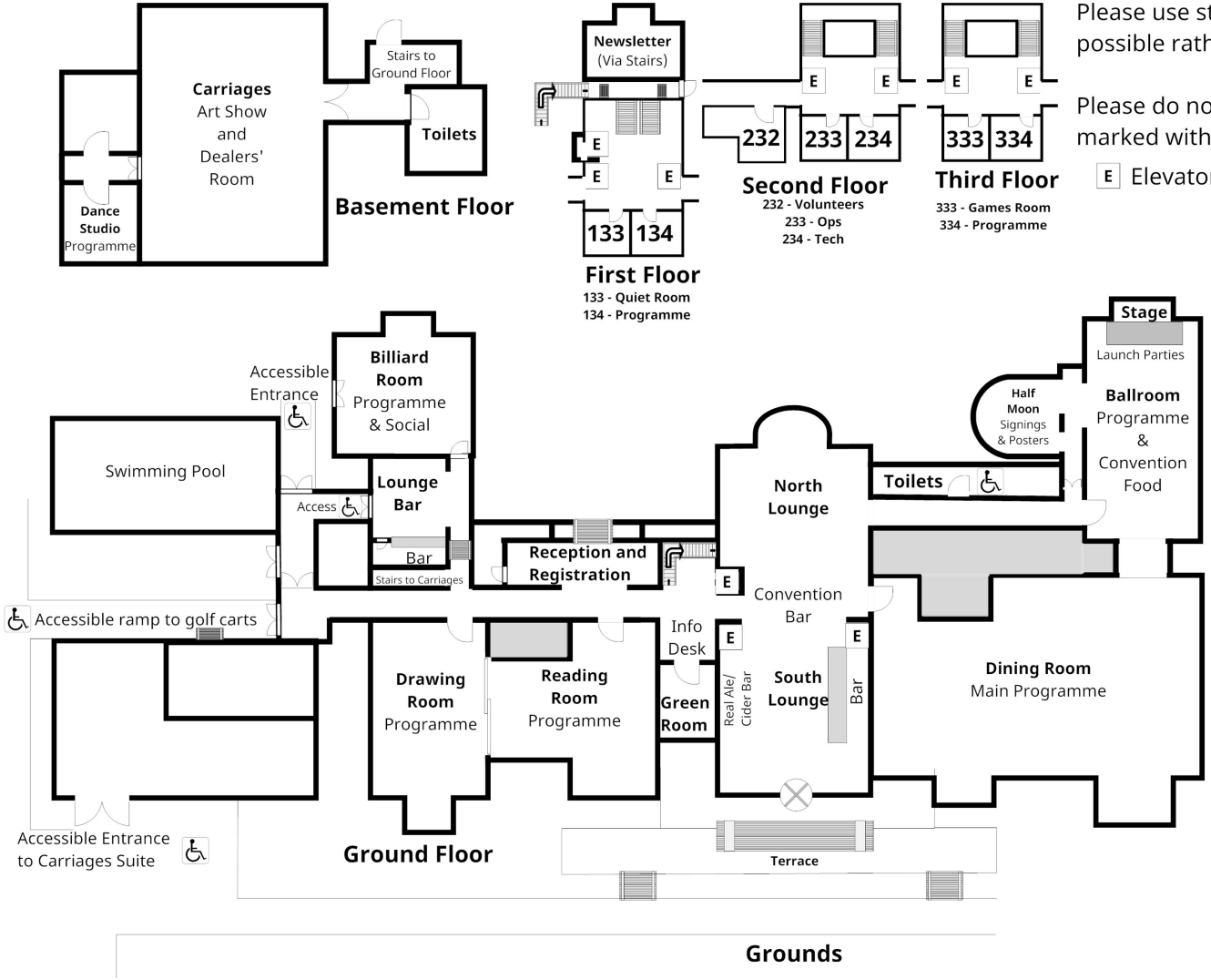
If someone is willing to be photographed or recorded but asks that the resulting media not be posted online or otherwise made public, this request must be respected.

Programme items may not be recorded without the prior permission of all panel members, and an announcement must be made in advance to ensure that audience members are aware of the recording.

Children at the Convention

Follycon aims to be an inclusive convention and as such we welcome children and families. A crèche is being provided and there will be lots for children to enjoy. However, we ask you to note that all members below the age of 18 remain entirely the responsibility of their parents or guardians at all times when not in the crèche.

Please use stairs where possible rather than lifts.

Please do not linger in area marked with yellow tape

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